

## The Theory of Developmental Communalism: Description and Bibliography

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Developmental communalism is both a theory and a process. As a theory, it focuses on movements that choose the communal method of organizing and the adjustments they make to their organizational structures, beliefs, and practices to insure the survival and expansion of the movements. Developmental communalism theory recognizes that communal living is a universally available social mechanism in all times to all peoples, governments, and movements. Secular as well as religious movements adopt communal living, often in a vulnerable early stage because it promises security, solidarity, and survival. Developmental communalism sees communitarianism as a method of social change with both advantages and disadvantages compared to individualism, gradual reform and revolution. Communitarianism is immediate, voluntary, collective, non-violent, and experimental, but it can be isolating, authoritarian, and especially difficult if it attempts communities that require all the elements of a social microcosm.

As a process, developmental communalism is an adaptive continuum in both individual communities and the larger movements that found them. To survive over long periods of time, communal groups and their founding movements must adapt to changing realities within and without. The process of developmental communalism poses a double-jeopardy threat to both communal groups and their movements. If communal living becomes an unchangeable commitment, the founding movement may fail to make necessary adjustments, stagnate, and die, thus causing the death of its communal groups. If the founding movement is dynamic enough to make changes away from the restrictions of communal living, the movement may expand while its communes become unnecessary or abandoned.

### Bibliography of the Theory of Developmental Communalism

The following pages contain an annotated bibliography of the theory of developmental communalism. Section I contains the papers and publications on developmental communalism by Don Pitzer since he introduced the theory in 1983. These can be found in the Communal Studies Collection of the Special Collections Department, David L. Rice Library, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, Indiana. (<http://www.usi.edu/library/university-archives-and-special-collections>) Section II mentions publications of more than twenty-five communal and utopian scholars and communitarians who have used developmental communalism as a theoretical framework. Section III has unpublished papers that include developmental communalism. Section IV lists publications that describe an adaptive process in communal groups without referring to the theory of developmental communalism. Section V gives prime sources on the theoretical and definitional dimensions of communalism and utopianism.

This bibliography and periodic updates will be posted on the University of Southern Indiana Center for Communal Studies "Community Updates" link, <http://www.usi.edu/liberal-arts/communal-center/community-updates/>. Please email suggested additions or comments to Don Pitzer at [dpitzer@usi.edu](mailto:dpitzer@usi.edu).

## Bibliography

### I. Donald E. Pitzer's Papers and Publications on the Theory of Developmental Communalism

All of Don Pitzer's papers and publications listed below are available in the Communal Studies Collection of the Special Collections Department, David L. Rice Library, University of Southern Indiana, Evansville, Indiana. (<http://www.usi.edu/library/univeristy-archives-and-special-collections>)

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